MICRO FOCUS

Modernize on Strength

A global #COBOLSurvey

COBOL: Huge and Growing

Our previous ebook, Modernization: Reimagining COBOL Systems for the Digital Age, was a survey snapshot of the global COBOL picture as it was.

But IT never sleeps, and what does perpetual progress mean for those who work with core business systems written in COBOL?

While COBOL is not new—it's been time-proven over decades—those new to IT may not appreciate the current strategic importance, and future modernization potential, of these well-established assets.

Our survey, delivered by industry research experts Vanson Bourne, refreshes the previous picture, and maps a pathway to application modernization for COBOL professionals.

Context counts:

View the Survey Results Webinar

Modernize on Strength: About this ebook

While our previous work rightly celebrated the resilience of the world's oldest business-oriented programming language, it's time to focus on the future.

After more than six decades, COBOL applications still underpin core systems of some of the globe's biggest finance and IT companies, and major government and federal agencies in the US and beyond.

Those making strategic decisions around application modernization and wider digital transformation programs will be considering their options.

Modernize on Strength helps those decision-makers by highlighting the key survey findings and what they mean for owners of COBOL application assets, either on the mainframe, distributed systems or in the cloud.

Micro Focus is committed to the future success of COBOL business applications. We have the knowledge, experience, and technology to help our customers take their core COBOL systems into tomorrow.

Review the Results:

Watch the Survey Results Webinar

About the #COBOLSurvey

To better understand the global picture for COBOL business applications, we worked with Vanson Bourne in consulting IT leaders, application owners and developers engaged in COBOL application development, maintenance, and modernization, in 49 global locations.

Roles in IT included developers, architects, directors, and managers and we selected IT professionals from diverse verticals, including IT/software vendors, government/federal agencies, finance, and manufacturing.

The aim was not to replicate the work of the previous survey, but rather expand upon its findings. The respondents, and questions, were new.

Importantly, the #COBOLSurvey was conducted in the context of application modernization as a practical exercise, and in some cases a business necessity. For many enterprises, the time to modernize is now.

View the data in context

at the Survey Results Webinar

> More than 800 billion lines of COBOL support today's core business systems. They represent endless opportunities for application modernization.

Our #COBOLSurvey Results

800 Billion Lines of Code—

Endless opportunity for COBOL modernization

The significant volume of COBOL application code represents noteworthy value for business organizations. But it requires ongoing investment as part of a larger modernization strategy.

More Key #COBOLSurvey Findings

COBOL is here for the long haul and ready for your transformation journey

52% predict COBOL will be here for the next decade or beyond, while 83% believe it will be there well after their retirement. Another 54% expect COBOL use to increase in the next 12 months.

COBOL business applications remain at the center of digital transformation

92% say their COBOL applications are strategic, a combined 49% believe COBOL application modernization is driven by future IT strategy and portfolio/technology alignment, while 36% confirm digital as a driver to modernize COBOL applications.

Modernization is the #1 approach preferred by IT leaders

72% prefer modernization as an overall business strategy and two out of three respondents intend to modernize COBOL applications vs. rip and replace. It's statistically the best option for the risk-averse enterprise.

Cloud is the #1 technology driving application modernization

43% claim COBOL applications will support cloud by the end of 2021. Additional priorities include RDBMS (36%) and Java integration (33%). 41% commented that new business projects now require integration with current COBOL systems.

Modern COBOL

A launchpad for opportunity, not a barrier to progress.

Still relevant

COBOL remains prominent, and strategic, in the modern age of business and IT and continues to support digital transformation and business change initiatives.

Opportunities abound

With 800 billion lines of COBOL in production, there is real opportunity for COBOL application modernization. Modern COBOL is fully compatible with new platforms and technologies.

Accelerating change

The global pandemic has accelerated the pace of digital change. Organizations must react quickly to meet new working models, and heightened customer expectations.

Residual value

Core business systems can be adapted to meet new market opportunities while countering competitive challenges. There is residual value in these IT investments that must be preserved and can be extended.

Minimize risk

Successful organizations see the connection between their core applications and the need to digitalize operations without risking core business operations.

COBOL is still growing

The global COBOL footprint is huge and growing all the time. COBOL is going nowhere, and smart enterprises recognize the value of reusing, rather than replacing, this key business asset.

Holistic success

A successful program is holistic, embracing application modernization's three tenets–application, process, and infrastructure–and sufficiently flexible to match each organization's application profile.

Don't wait to start

Every application modernization transformation program begins with a single step. Make downloading Build on Strength and watching the replay of our webinar yours.

Micro Focus has assisted with thousands of successful digital change programs around COBOL applications, using our unique "run and transform" methodology.

Digital Transformation and Core COBOL Systems

Your enterprise faces a digital dilemma—to balance today's needs against tomorrow's opportunities. COBOL solves that dilemma. It maximizes the value of your current IT investments and supports future innovation, so you run your business today and attain the four outcomes of successful digital transformation.

Accelerate Your Application Delivery

Reliably scale Agile and DevOps across all your environments, from mainframe to cloud—quickly bringing innovative ideas to life at the pace your business demands.

Strengthen Your Cyber Resilience

Intelligently adapt your security to respond to an ever-evolving threat landscape and protect your company's most important assets.

Simplify Your IT Transformation

Simplify the complexity of hybrid IT and transform into an agile, services-driven organization.

Analyze Your Data in Time to Act

Leverage machine learning so you can transform unlimited volumes of data into accurate, actionable, and automated insights.

The #COBOLSurvey results prove COBOL is (and was) not the problem, but the solution to challenges of modernizing enterprise core systems to maximize future business opportunities.

In fact, COBOL lies at the heart of digital transformation.

IT is a young industry that, like fashion, is on a constant search for the new and the next. Cutting edge technologies can quickly become disregarded in this perpetual drive.

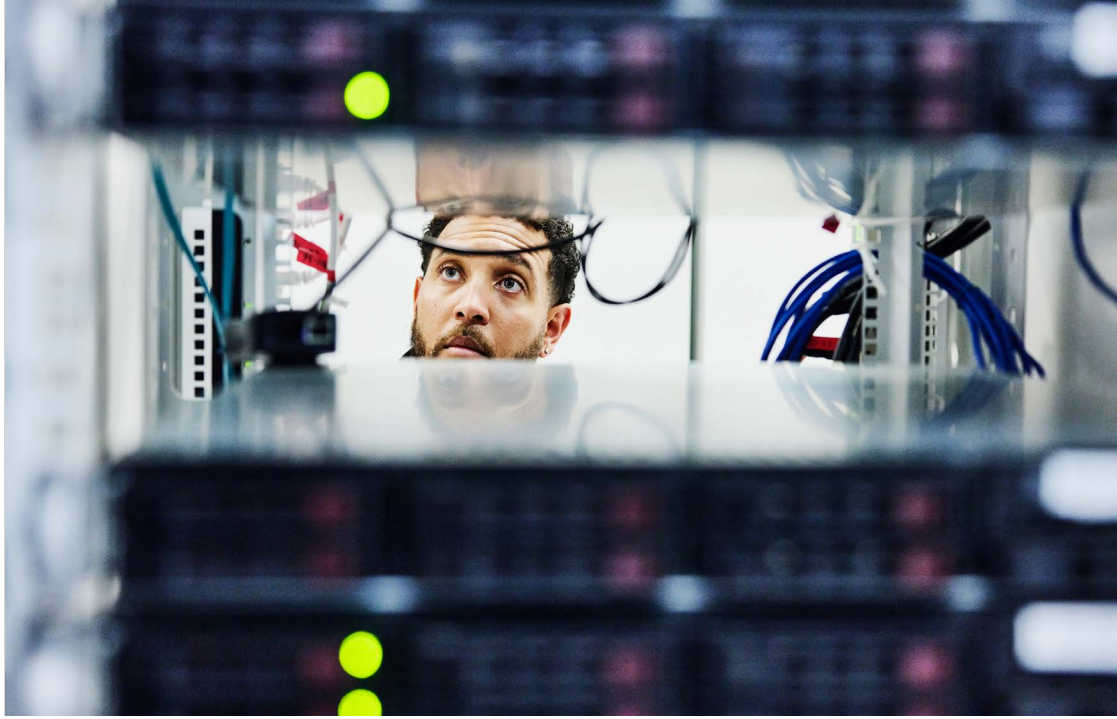
While a "what's next" attitude is important as it fuels innovation, constantly abandoning technology confuses age with value.

In short, while the language itself may be old and time-proven, the current iteration of COBOL has evolved to meet the needs of the modern enterprise. Decision-makers should not regard time-proven technology as post-value.

Evolution or Revolution?

View the Survey Results Webinar

#ModernCOBOL: A Strong Foundation



Just as anyone considering modernizing their house would not dig out the foundations, 92% of IT leaders agree business applications remain "strategic" and at the heart of their change strategies.

Perhaps that is why the number of active lines of production COBOL, 800 billion and growing, represent multiple pathways for digital transformation rather than a roadblock.

Indeed, the grim statistics for rip and replace strategies, speak to the simple business sense of reusing what works, extracting new value from current IT investments, and embracing the possibilities of modern COBOL to enable future innovation and business success.

What next?

While we can offer project-proven expertise and evolving technology, we have no magic bullet.

Because no two companies have identical application profiles, there is no one size fits all strategy to modernize the enterprise—no instant switch that enables application modernization and wider digital transformation.

Instead, there is a process that optimizes your COBOL assets. It begins with a Value Profile Service that analyzes your application profile and prepares your enterprise for the benefits of an application modernization journey.

Let's begin.

View the Survey Results Webinar

> COBOL helps to keep the business running today, while supporting future innovation—and all without risking your unique IP.
>
> MICRO FOCUS

The #COBOLSurvey: Next Steps

This ebook is just half the story. Micro Focus COBOL experts and Vanson Bourne analysts are ready to tell you more.

Our #COBOLSurvey webinar is ready to watch whenever you're ready to listen and learn. As a long-established champion of COBOL, we have the experience and assets to signpost your path to application modernization and wider digital transformation.

> Our research, and the statistics we presented to Micro Focus, tell their own story. COBOL remains relevant for the future-focused enterprise.
>
> VANSON BOURNE

Watch Our Survey Results Webinar Now ›

Read When You're Ready

Micro Focus Modernization Maturity Model ›

What is COBOL? web page ›

Our Modernization Technology ›

Micro Focus Enterprise Suite ›

Mainframe Access and Security ›

Micro Focus Visual COBOL ›

Value Profile Service ›

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